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(56) Documents Cited

GB 2316598 A

GB 2232057 A

GB 0321825 A

GB 0252850 A

(58) Field of Search

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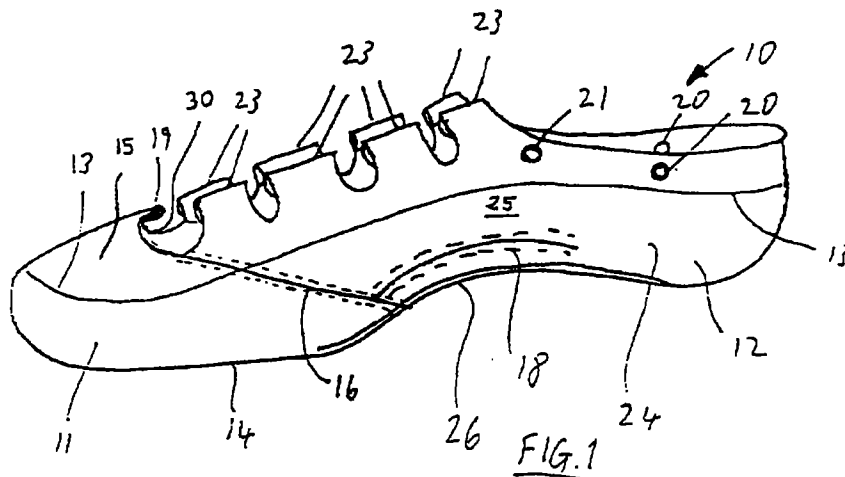
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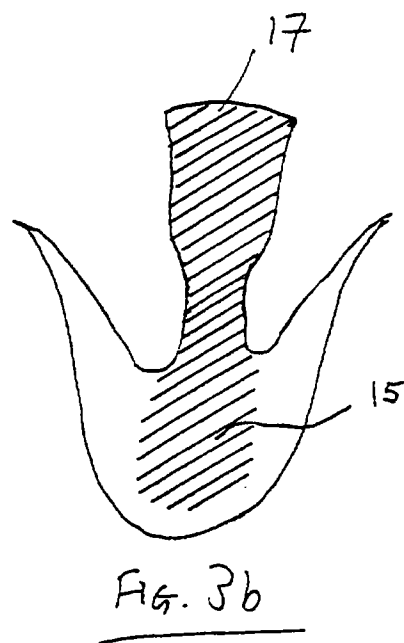
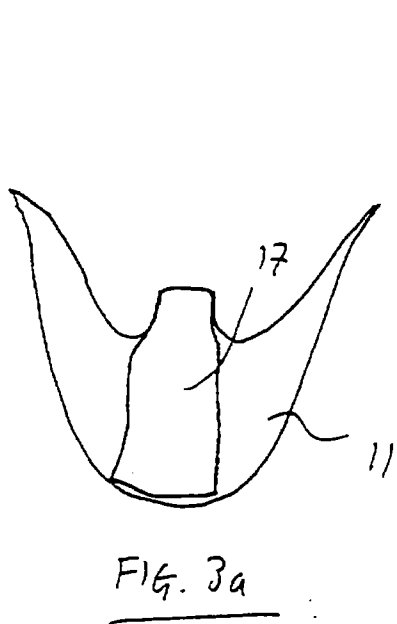
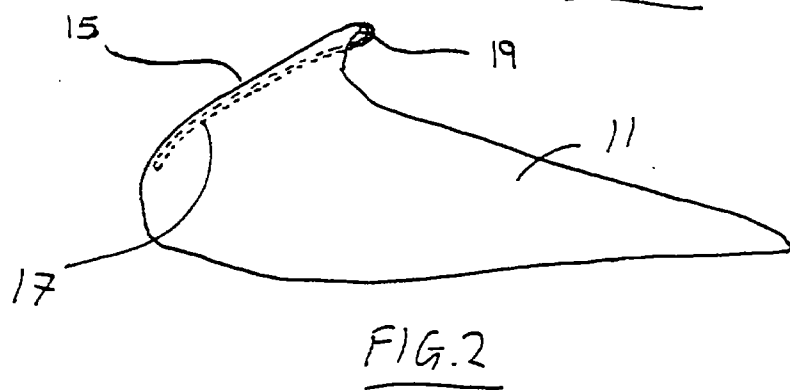
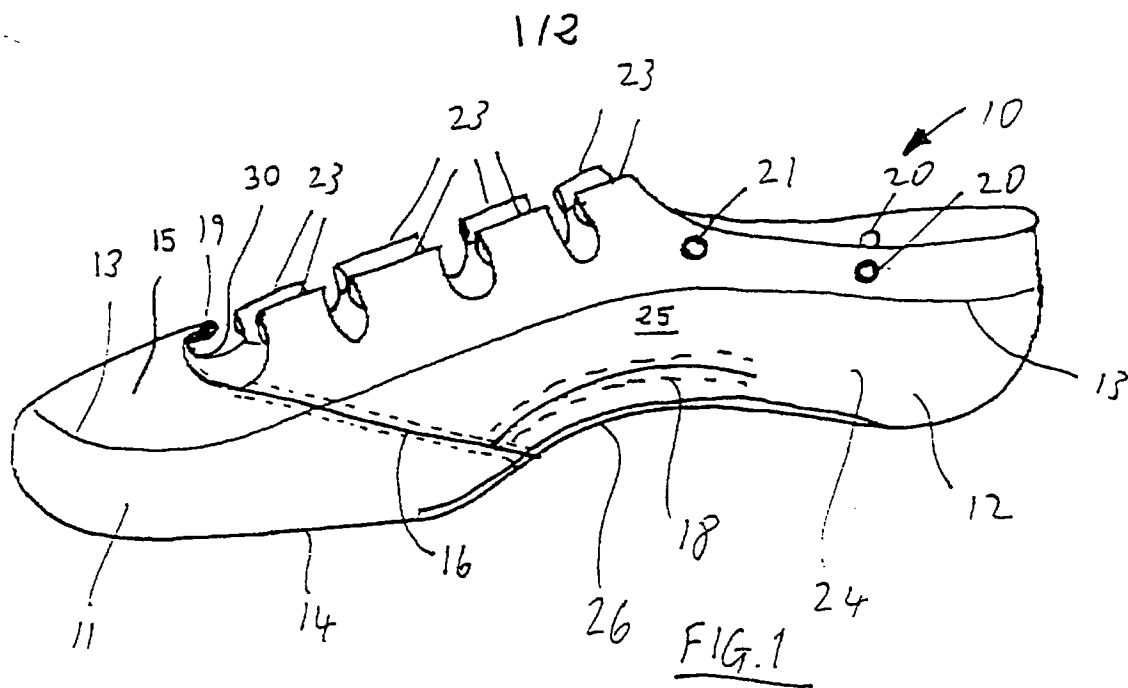
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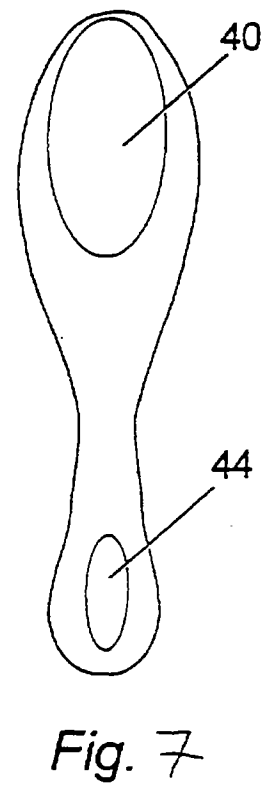
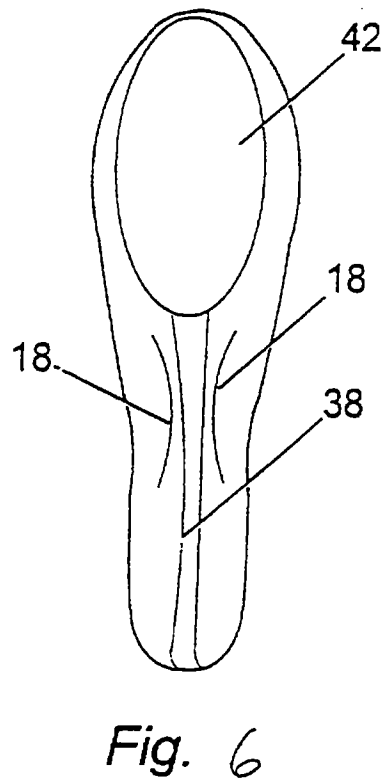
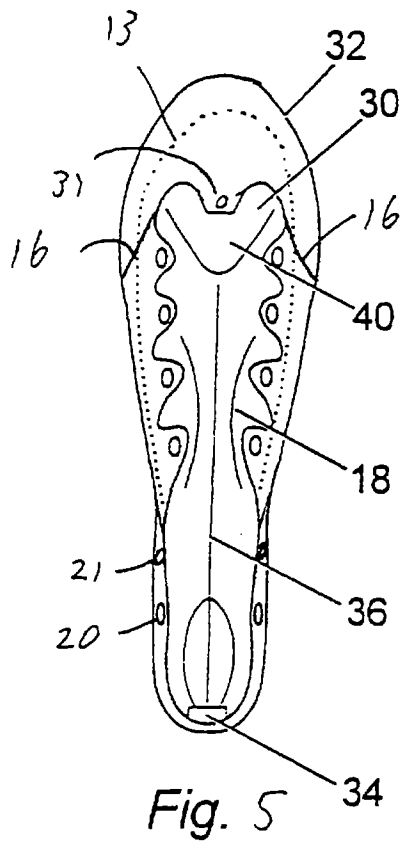
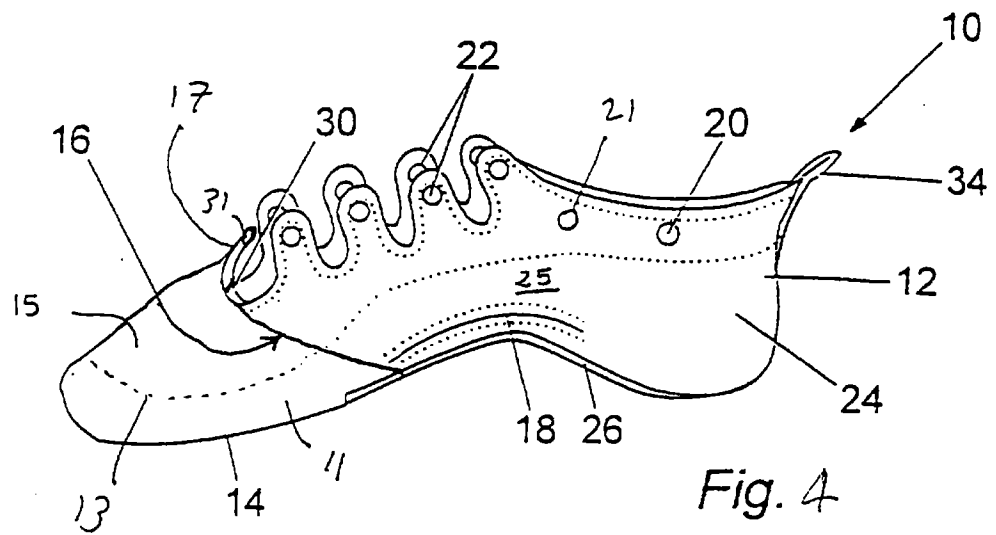
Dance shoe

(57) A dance shoe 10 comprises a sole portion 14 and an upper portion 25, said sole portion having an arched portion 26 and said upper portion comprising a toe portion 11 and a side and rear portion 12, wherein the toe portion is formed from a single sheet material. Typically, the toe portion is secured to the side and rear portion by two seams 16 extending diagonally from the top of the shoe to the sole portion. The shoe may also comprise a first eyelet 20 at each side adjacent to the heel of the shoe and a second eyelet 21 at each side above the arched portion of the sole. The toe portion may comprise a toe cap 15 having a projecting portion 19 which can be folded underneath the toe cap and fastened in place preferably, arched shaped stitching 18 is provided on the upper portion, either side of the arched portion of the sole.



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## 1     "DANCE SHOE"

2

3     This invention relates to a dance shoe. Particularly  
4     but not exclusively it relates to a dance shoe for  
5     country or Irish dancing or similar type of dancing.

6

7     In the field of dance shoes, it is common to have a  
8     soft shoe, for example made of leather, which is  
9     strapped to a dancer's foot by shoe strings or straps.  
10    Commonly known dance shoes are plain in design having a  
11    firm sole simply stitched to the leather upper.  
12    British Patent Publication No 2,316,598 discloses a  
13    dance shoe with arch shaped stitching on either side of  
14    the arch portion of the shoe to prevent the shoe from  
15    slipping around or becoming misplaced on a dancer's  
16    foot while dancing. This shoe has the advantage that  
17    the arch shape helps prevent unwanted stretching of the  
18    shoe, and helps support the wearer's foot and hold the  
19    shoe in position. The upper of the shoe is made from  
20    two pieces of leather which are joined by a seam which  
21    runs from the front of the shoe to the scooped vamp  
22    line of the shoe. If the shoes are used for dances  
23    which require a dancer to stand on his/her toes for  
24    long periods, this seam can cause discomfort. It is an  
25    object of the present invention to provide a dance shoe  
26    with improved comfort.

1 According to the present invention there is provided a  
2 dance shoe comprising a sole portion and an upper  
3 portion, said sole portion having an arched portion and  
4 said upper portion comprising a toe portion and a side  
5 and rear portion, wherein the toe portion is formed  
6 from a single sheet of material.

7  
8 The shoe of the invention has the advantage that there  
9 is no seam securing together pieces of leather in the  
10 middle at the front of the shoe, so that no discomfort  
11 to the wearer's toes is caused when the wearer stands  
12 on their toes. Friction damage to the wearer's foot is  
13 thus reduced.

14  
15 Preferably the toe portion comprises a toe cap provided  
16 in the central part of the toe portion. Preferably the  
17 toe cap is lined to further reduce friction damage,  
18 although unlined toe caps are also covered by the  
19 present invention. Preferably the toe cap comprises a  
20 loop portion for attachment of a lace therethrough.  
21 Preferably the loop portion is formed by looping a  
22 projecting portion of the toe cap underneath the toe  
23 cap and fastening it in place. The projecting portion  
24 is preferably sufficiently wide to serve as a lining to  
25 the inside of the toe cap and so that there are no  
26 seams in the centre of the toe portion.

27  
28 Preferably the toe portion is secured to the side and  
29 rear portion by securing means comprising one or more  
30 seams. Preferably the seams extend in a diagonal  
31 direction from the top of the shoe backwards towards  
32 the sole.

33  
34 In a first embodiment the toe portion may be connected  
35 to the side and rear portion by seams at each side of  
36 the shoe. The side and rear portion may be formed as a

1 single piece. Alternatively the side and rear portion  
2 is formed as two separate pieces which are joined  
3 together, for example by a seam, at the heel of the  
4 shoe.

5

6 In a second embodiment the toe portion and side and  
7 rear portion may be formed as one single sheet of  
8 material, with a single seam at the heel.

9

10 Preferably the side and rear portion is provided with a  
11 plurality of fastening loops or eyelets along each side  
12 at the front end of the shoe, so that a tying means  
13 (for example a lace) may be laced through the fastening  
14 loops and eyelets to draw the opposing sides together  
15 over the front of the foot.

16

17 Preferably the sole has a first substantially flat  
18 portion adjacent to the toe portion of the shoe, a  
19 second substantially flat portion adjacent to the heel  
20 of the shoe, and an arched portion between the first  
21 and second portions.

22

23 Preferably the shoe is provided with means for holding  
24 the heel of the shoe onto a wearer's foot; the means  
25 may be a lace which passes through a plurality of  
26 eyelets provided on either side of the heel end of the  
27 shoe. Preferably a first eyelet is provided at each  
28 side adjacent to the heel end of the shoe and a second  
29 eyelet is provided at each side above the arched  
30 portion of the sole. The shoe may be held onto the  
31 foot by passing a lace through the fastening loops and  
32 eyelets, through the first and second eyelets and  
33 around the ankle. The provision of the first and  
34 second eyelets enables the wearer to lace through these  
35 eyelets to stop the lace slipping up the ankle and leg.  
36 The shoe is held tightly on the foot and the second

1 eyelet makes it unnecessary to tie the lace around the  
2 arch of the sole.

3

4 It is further preferred to provide the shoe with arch  
5 shaped stitchings on either side of the arched shaped  
6 portion of the sole of the shoe (as described in GB-A-  
7 2,316,598) to prevent the shoe from being misplaced on  
8 a dancer feet while dancing.

9

10 Preferably at least part of the sole portion is of a  
11 material that can absorb high degrees of impact but  
12 still allows for flexibility. The material may be  
13 CLERON (Trade Mark).

14

15 Specific embodiments of the invention will now be  
16 described, by way of example only, with reference to  
17 the accompanying drawings in which:

18

19 Fig 1 is a side view of a first shoe in accordance with  
20 the present invention;

21

22 Fig 2 is a side view of the toe cap of the shoe of Fig  
23 1;

24

25 Figs 3a and 3b are views from below of the toe cap of  
26 Fig 2 before and after folding the loop, respectively;

27

28 Fig 4 is a plan view of a second shoe in accordance  
29 with the present invention;

30

31 Fig 5 is a plan view on the shoe of Fig 4;

32

33 Fig 6 is a view from below the shoe of Fig 4; and

34

35 Fig 7 is a view from above the inner sole area of the  
36 shoe of Fig 4.

1 Referring to the drawings, Fig 1 is a side view of a  
2 dance shoe 10 in accordance with the present invention.  
3 The shoe 10 has an upper portion 25 and a sole portion  
4 14. The upper portion 13 is formed from a toe portion  
5 11 and a main portion (side and back portion) 12 of  
6 soft leather held together by stitched seams 16. A  
7 line of decorative stitching 13 may also be provided,  
8 but does not contribute to the physical assembly of the  
9 shoe 10.

10

11 The shoe 10 has an arch stitch 18 in the main portion  
12 12 which is stitched into either side of the shoe 10  
13 (as can be seen in Fig 1). The arch stitching 18 helps  
14 to stop the shoe 10 from stretching in this area and in  
15 turn supports the arch of a wearer's foot during  
16 dancing. Arch stitching 18 also helps to reduce  
17 misplacement of the shoe 10 during use.

18

19 The shoe 10 is further provided with two side eyelets  
20 20 and 21 on either side of the shoe 10. A shoe lace  
21 (not shown) may be threaded through these eyelets and  
22 loops 23 and tied to hold the shoe 10 onto the wearer's  
23 foot. The arrangement of eyelets 20, 21 helps to avoid  
24 incorrect adjustment of the shoe 10 relative to the  
25 wearer's foot during dancing. Further, the arrangement  
26 supports the foot and alleviates or reduces the  
27 incidence of Achilles tendonitis. Further eyelet 21  
28 obviates the need for a wearer to tie the lace around  
29 the arched sole 26.

30

31 Fig 4 shows a shoe 10 similar to that shown in Fig 1,  
32 except that the shoe 10 is fastened by eyelets 22  
33 instead of loops 23. An eyelet 31 is also provided in  
34 the extending tongue portion 17 of the toe portion 11.

35

36 The shoe may be provided with a back loop 34 (as shown



1 in Fig 4), which extends into a back seam 36 to hold  
2 the shoe together. The back seam 36 is covered by a  
3 leather strip 38.

4  
5 The shape of heel portion 24 is adapted to be pocket-  
6 like so as to surround the wearer's foot firmly, in  
7 turn supporting the wearer's heel area.

8  
9 As can be clearly seen in Fig 1, the shoe 10 is  
10 provided with an arch shaped sole 26. This shaped sole  
11 26 hugs the arch of the shoe 10 onto the wearer's foot.

12  
13 As can be seen in Figs 1, 4 and 5, the shoe 10 is  
14 further provided with cut-out lug shaped portions 30  
15 having a scooped vamp line at the toe portion 11.  
16 These portions 30 allow easier bending of the shoe on  
17 the wearer's foot, for example in demi point stance,  
18 and helps to stop the shoe 10 pressurising the ball of  
19 the wearer's foot in use.

20  
21 The toe portion 11 has a toe cap 15 which comprises the  
22 middle-upper part of toe portion 11. Toe cap 15 is  
23 shown schematically as the shaded portion of the toe  
24 portion 11 in Fig 3b. It should be noted that the  
25 exact extent of toe cap 15 may vary depending upon the  
26 size of the shoes and the wearer's preference. Toe cap  
27 15 is provided with an extending tongue portion 17  
28 which is folded back underneath the toe portion 11 to  
29 form a loop 19 (see Fig 2). Figs 3a and 3b show the  
30 tongue portion 17 in the folded and unfolded states  
31 respectively.

32  
33 The sole portion 14 of the shoe 10 is comprised of  
34 various layers. From inside to outside of the shoe,  
35 the front sole comprises a pad insert 40 which can be  
36 seen separately in Fig 7, and an outer sole unit 42

1 which can be seen clearly in Fig 6.

2

3 As well as the front sole insert 40, there is provided  
4 in the sole portion 14 a heel pad 44 (see Fig 7). In  
5 this embodiment, both the sole pad 40 and the heel pad  
6 44 are made substantially of CLERON<sup>(cm)</sup> material. This  
7 material can absorb large impact forces but still  
8 allows lightness and flexibility, and thus comfort, in  
9 the shoe.

10

11 Modifications and improvements may be made to the  
12 foregoing without departing from the scope of the  
13 invention.

1     **CLAIMS**

2

3     1.   A dance shoe comprising a sole portion and an  
4         upper portion, said sole portion having an arched  
5         portion and said upper portion comprising a toe  
6         portion and a side and rear portion, wherein the  
7         toe portion is formed from a single sheet  
8         material.

9

10    2.   A dance shoe as claimed in Claim 1, where said toe  
11         portion is secured to the side and rear portion by  
12         securing means comprising at least one seam.

13

14    3.   A dance shoe as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said  
15         securing means comprises two seams extending in a  
16         diagonal direction from the top of the shoe  
17         towards the sole portion.

18

19    4.   A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to  
20         3, wherein the shoe is provided with means for  
21         holding the rear portion of the shoe onto a  
22         wearer's foot, said means comprising:

- 23         -   first eyelet means comprising an eyelet  
24             provided at each side adjacent to the heel  
25             end of the shoe; and
- 26         -   second eyelet means comprising an eyelet  
27             provided at each side above the arched  
28             position of the sole.

29

30    5.   A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to  
31         4, wherein the side and rear position is provided  
32         with a series of fastening loops or eyelets along  
33         each side of the front end of said shoe so that a  
34         tying means may be threaded through the fastening  
35         loops or eyelets to draw the opposing sides  
36         together over the front of the foot.

- 1     6.    A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to  
2           5, wherein the toe portion comprises a toe cap  
3           which is provided with a loop portion, said loop  
4           portion being formed by looping a projecting  
5           portion of the toe cap underneath the toe cap and  
6           fastening it in place.  
7
- 8     7.    A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to  
9           6, wherein the side and rear portion is formed as  
10          a single piece.  
11
- 12    8.    A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to  
13          7, wherein the side and rear portion is formed as  
14          two separate pieces which are joined together at  
15          the heel of the shoe.  
16
- 17    9.    A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims  
18          1 to 8, wherein arched shaped stitching is  
19          provided on said upper portion, said  
20          stitching being positioned on either side of  
21          the arched portion of the sole portion.  
22
- 23    10.   A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to  
24          9, wherein at least part of the sole portion is  
25          made of CLERON(™).  
26
- 27    11.   A dance shoe as substantially herein before  
28          described with reference to the accompanying  
29          drawings.  
30  
31



Application No: GB 9923810.7  
Claims searched: 1-11

Examiner: Dr Paul R Minton  
Date of search: 10 January 2000

## Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

### Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): A3B.

Int Cl (Ed.7): A43B 5/12.

Other: ONLINE: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
Y	GB 2 316 598 A (COUSSINS). See particularly lines 31-34, page 2 and Figures 1 & 3.	4,9,10
X,Y	GB 2 232 057 A (BURLINGTON). See particularly Figures 1-3.	X:1,5,8 Y:4,9,10
X	GB 0 321 825 A (TILTON). See particularly Figures 1 & 2.	1-3,7
X	GB 0 252 850 A (DI SALVO). See particularly Figures 1 & 2.	1-3,7

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.